ISSUE DATE: 24 March 2008



EXPIRATION DATE: 23 April 2008

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft EA and FONSI Mounds Creek Culvert Trash Rack Project

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MEMPHIS DISTRICT

## REPLY TO:

Attn: Patricia L. Jones Environmental Branch U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 167 North Main Street, Room B-202 Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894 Tele: (901) 544-0705

Fax: (901) 544-0705

Email: Patricia.L.Jones@mvm02.usace.army.mil

TITLE: Mounds Creek Culvert Trash Rack

**AUTHORITY:** This project is authorized under the Flood Control Act of 15 May 1928, as amended.

**LOCATION:** The project is located on Mounds Creek in Pulaski County, Illinois approximately 1 mile north of Mound City, Illinois. A project map is attached.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District is issuing this notice of intention to install a trash rack and stabilize the banks of Mounds Creek.

**PURPOSE:** The proposed trash rack will keep logs and debris from entering the culvert under the levee/road. If the trash rack is not installed, logs and debris will continue to accumulate in and near the culvert. The accumulated debris will impede/block flow to the culvert, resulting in increased flooding in the vicinity.

ALTERNATIVES: Three alternatives were considered for this project.

Alternative 1: No Action: The no-action alternative would result in continued blockage of flow

through the culvert to inside the leveed floodway. Increased flooding in the immediate vicinity of the culvert would persist when logs and debris become lodged in the culvert.

Alternative 2: Install Trash Rack and Bank Protection. This alternative would involve installing a trash rack in front of the culvert to prevent logs and debris from entering the culvert during rain and other high water events. Bank protection would be installed on both banks to prevent future damage to the creek banks.

Alternative 3: Install Trash Rack: This alternative would involve installing only a trash rack in front of the culvert to prevent logs and debris from entering the culvert during rain events.

After careful consideration of all alternatives, it was determined that Alternative 1 (no action) was unacceptable since increased flooding would continue to be an issue in the vicinity of the culvert. Alternative 3 (trash rack only) would involve installation of the trash rack only but this alternative would not provide any protection to the creek banks. Consequently, Alternative 2 (trash rack with bank protection) is the most feasible alternative.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The work consists of installing a trash rack on the inlet side of the existing Mounds Creek culvert through the levee/road. In addition, the creek banks will be armored with stone, providing protection from potential damage resulting from logs and debris that may accumulate at the trash rack during increased water elevations. A total of 920 tons of riprap and 110 cubic yards of filter material will be utilized to protect the banks. The banks will be shaped to 1V:3.25H side slopes. The stone protection will be placed as shown on the plans. Additional gravel will be placed on an existing gravel road at the work site.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project meets the criteria of Nationwide Permit #13, Bank Stabilization. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issued a conditional water quality certification for this nationwide permit. The Memphis District will abide by all conditions.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** No endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, are known to exist in the project area. No impacts on them would be anticipated. This notice is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they may have regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Due to the nature and location of the proposed work, the project will not impact any cultural resources. This project has been coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO has no objection to the undertaking proceeding as planned.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed activities and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest. This notice is being circulated to federal, state and

local agencies and the public.

The decision to proceed with this project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The potential benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify or condition the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of the final environmental assessment and/or a draft environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. The draft environmental assessment and the draft finding of no significant impact will be circulated to agencies and any other parties that respond to this notice requesting a copy. A copy has been placed on the District's website at:

http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public-notices/pn.htm

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall clearly state the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed in order to reach a decision on the project. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work.

COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on the proposed project, please contact Patricia L. Jones at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 167 North Main Street, Room B202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, telephone 901/544-0705. Comments should be forwarded to reach this office by April 23, 2008.

Edward P. Lambert

Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosures

Mounds Creek Trash Rack Pulaski County, Illinois







